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Was 15th AF Chief of Staff Here

Briggs Back in Springs After Ten-Year Absence

Maj. Gen. James Elbert Briggs, Air Force Academy superintendent, returns to Colorado Springs after a 10-year absence when the Academy moves to its permanent site north of here this weekend.

Briggs was chief of staff of the 15th Air Force here from August 1947 to April 1958.

Briggs was born in Rochester, N. Y., on May 5, 1906. He was graduated from New York Military Academy in 1924 and from the U. S. Military Academy on June 9, 1928, as a second lieutenant of field artillery.

A year later he entered the Primary Flying School and was graduated from Advanced Flying School in July 1930. Briggs then transferred to the Air Corps.

DURING the next 10 years Briggs served at various fields in continental United States and Hawaii. In June 1940 he was assigned to the U. S. Military Academy as an instructor in mathematics.

In May, 1942, General Briggs was appointed operations officer of the Eighth Air Force Fighter Command in Europe, and in September 1943 became air officer of the European Section of the War Department General Staff.

In March 1945 General Briggs became deputy commander of the North Atlantic Division, Air Transport Command, and that December went to Air Transport Command headquarters as assistant chief of staff for plans and chief of Organizational Planning. General Briggs joined the Central Intelligence Group at Washington, D. C., in April 1946.

Moving to Colorado Springs in August 1947, General Briggs was chief of staff of the 15th Air Force, and the next April went to Spokane Air Force Base, Wash., and assumed command of the 92nd and 98th Bomb Wings.



IN MARCH 1949 he moved to MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., and assumed command of the 306th and 307th Bomb Wings. General Briggs was assigned to the Far East Bomb Command as deputy commander in August 1950, and the following January assumed command of it. He became deputy commander

of the 15th Air Force at March Air Force Base, Calif., in June 1951.

Briggs was named assistant deputy chief of staff for development at Air Force headquarters, Washington, D. C., in November 1951, and in May 1954 was designated assistant deputy chief of staff for operations, and

was assigned the additional duty of United States Air Force member of the Permanent Joint Board on Defense, Canada-U. S.

He succeeded Lieut. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon as superintendent of the Air Force Academy, temporarily located at Denver, on August 1, 1956.

His decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal. He is rated a command pilot.

General and Mrs. Briggs have one son, James E. Briggs, Jr., now a 1st Lt. in the Air Force.